

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 OIC-04

AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15

PRS-01 SPC-03 OMB-01 DRC-01 /233 W

----- 128087

R 312004Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5227

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

RUESEBQWXAMEMBASSY BERN 1083

6AMEMBASSY ZTNN 4600

AMEMBASSY ZRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TTKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

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USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 12714

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, UK

SUBJECT: UK REACTION TO THE OCTOBER 24-26 TNC MEETING

REF: GENEVA 5700

BEGIN SUMMARY: MARTIN LAM (UNDER SECRETARY AT DTI)
TOLD US THAT THE EC WILL REVIEW ITS POSITION ON THE
STRUCTURE OF THE TNC'S WORKING GROUPS AT A MEETING OF
THE ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE ON NOVEMBER 7. LAM DOUBTS

THAT THE FRENCH WILL BE MORE FLEXIBLE AT THAT MEETING,
HOWEVER, AND HE EXPECTS THE PROBLEM WILL HAVE TO BE
REFERRED TO THE EC COUNCIL FOR DISCUSSION IN DECEMBER.
LAM SAID IT WAS "ABSURD" THAT THE TNC WAS UNABLE TO
AGREE ON HOW TO PROCEED WITH ITS WORK, AND HE
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE EC POSITION WAS EXCESSIVELY RIGID.
HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE IS A REAL POINT OF SUBSTANCE
UNDERLYING THE FRUSTRATING FRENCH TACTICS, HOWEVER. THE
FRENCH BELIEVE STRONGLY THAT THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR HAS
UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS, AND THAT IT THEREFORE HAS TO BE
TREATED SEPARATELY FROM THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR. THE
OTHER MEMBER STATES SHARE THIS VIEW TO SOME EXTENT, LAM
SAID, ALTHOUGH THEY DO NOT INSIST ON APPLYING IT AS
DOGMATICALLY AS THE FRENCH DO.
END SUMMARY

1. WE CALLED ON MARTIN LAM (UNDER SECRETARY AT DTI)
TO REPIEW THE OCTOBER 24-26 MEETING OF THE TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE. LAM CHARACTERIZED THE TNC'S
FAILURE TO AGREE TO THE STRUCTURE OF ITS WORKING GROUPS

AS "ABSURD." HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE EC POSITION ON
THIS POINT WAS EXCESSIVELY RIGID. FRANCE, HE SAID,
WAS COMPLETELY ISOLATED IN INSISTING ON A WRITTEN
COMMITMENT THAT THE WORKING GROUP ON AGRICULTURE HAD
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TO BE THE EXCLUSIVE BODY FOR DISCUSSING ALL AGRICULTURAL
ISSUES, BUT ALL ATTEMPTS BY THE OTHER MEMBER STATES TO
MOVE THE FRENCH OFF THIS POSITION FAILED.

2. LAM SAID THAT THE ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE IS EXPECTED
TO REVIEW THE EC POSITION ON THE TNC AT ITS MEETING
ON NOVEMBER 7. HE DOUBTS THAT FRANCE WILL BE
PREPARED TO MODIFY ITS POSITION AT THAT POINT, HOWEVER,
AND HE PREDICTED THAT THE PROBLEM WOULD HAVE TO BE

REFERRED TO THE EC COUNCIL FOR DISCUSSION IN DECEMBER.
IN THE MEANTIME, LAM SAID, GATT DIRECTOR GENERAL LONG
WILL TRY TO IMPLEMENT HIS COMPROMISE PLAN (PARA 8 REFTEL)

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RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00

USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 OMB-01 DRC-01 /244 W

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R 312004Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5228

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 12714

IN ORDER TO GET THE TNC'S PREPARATORY WORK UNDERWAY,
AND THE PROBLEM OF HOW TO ORGANIZE THE WORK OF THE TNC
MIGHT ALSO BE CONSIDERED AT THE TIME OF THE NOVEMBER
SESSION OF THE GATT CONTRACTING PARTIES.

3. IN SPECULATING ON THE REASONS FOR THE IMPASSE AT
THE OCTOBER 24-26 MEETING, LAM SAID THAT THE FRENCH
POSITION MIGHT HAVE BEEN LESS RIGID IF DE MOREL HAD
BEEN PRESENT INSTEAD OF COLLIN. HE ALSO POINTED OUT
THAT THE EC COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE PHAN VAN PHI HAD
DEFINED THE EC POSITION SOMEWHAT MORE SHARPLY THAN
HIJZEN MIGHT HAVE DONE, MAKING COMPROMISE MORE DIFFICULT.
FURTHERMORE, THE DELAYS IN HOUSE CONSIDERATION OF THE
TRADE BILL HAVE DIMINISHED THE SENSE OF URGENCY IN THE
WORK OF THE TNC, AND THE FRENCH FEEL THEY CAN INDULGE
MORE FREELY IN PROCEDURAL SQUABBLES.

4. LAM STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS A REAL
POINT OF SUBSTANCE UNDERLYING THE FRENCH POSITION.
THE FRENCH BELIEVE STRONGLY THAT THE AGRICULTURAL
SECTOR HAS UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS, AND THAT IT SHOULD
BE TREATED SEPARATELY FROM THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR. THE
OTHER MEMBER STATES (INCLUDING THE UK) SHARE THIS VIEW
TO SOME EXTENT LAM SAID, ALTHOUGH THEY DO NOT OF COURSE
GO AS FAR AS THE FRENCH. THE OTHERS BELIEVE THERE
SHOULD BE A SEPARATE WORKING GROUP ON AGRICULTURE,
BUT THEY ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS
IN OTHER WORKING GROUPS AS WELL.

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